

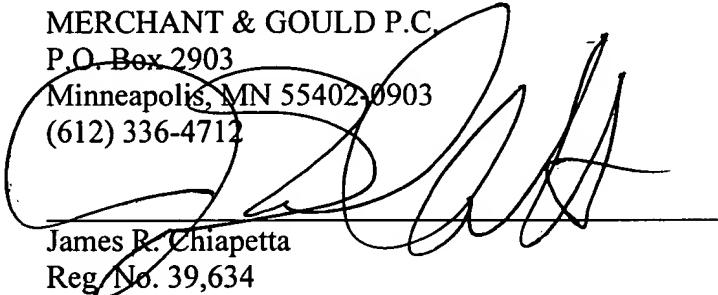
Remarks

The present application is a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) of U.S. Serial No. 09/045,213, filed March 20, 1998, for which a Notice of Allowance was mailed on November 7, 2000. The herein requested amendment to the Specification reflects this status. Applicants will be filing a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment directed to the claims of the presently filed application within 8-12 weeks. If the Examiner takes the case up prior to that time, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: 02/06/01